

**From:** Michael Syvertsen  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 8:15pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Lt Michael Syvertsen USN (Ret)  
21613 Echo Lake Road  
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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As a user of Microsoft products and a strong supporter of the company, I feel that the government has overstepped its bounds in this case. People seem to forget that Microsoft did the most to bring standardization, interoperability, and affordability to the software industry. The company not only built a better mousetrap, but also priced it lower than the competition's. If I have to choose between seeing Microsoft disbanded or the Department of Justice settlement, I choose the settlement.

Under your settlement, Microsoft will allow software engineers and computer makers to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft programs that compete with the programs already included within Windows. This means that Microsoft will more or less allow the competition to use the success of Windows to launch their own programs that compete with those in Windows. Does that sound like competition or exploitation?

I think that if Microsoft made products that competed in more traditional and understandable industries, that we would call these concessions un-American. Imagine if Coke was mandated to include a sample of Pepsi in every can, or if McDonalds had to allow its customers to order a Burger King Whopper at its own restaurants. Would this be competitive? Would we allow it?

I agree that Microsoft could retaliate less against those that promote or produce non-Microsoft products, but that's capitalism and normal business, and should be an ethical question rather than a legal one. So when choosing between a break-up of Microsoft or the settlement, I choose the settlement. I just hope that we're not back at the federal level again in a couple of years, trying to protect Microsoft from competitors that are used to litigating away market share rather than earning it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lt Michael Syvertsen USN (Ret)  
President Washington State Council of Chapters  
The Retired Officer Association

**CC:** Patty Murray Politician, Maria Cantwell Politician